

Approved For Release 2000/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005600660012-9

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 6 SEP 50

SUBJECT Renovation of Yonpo Airport

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1A

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF 25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.F1d
737

1. The reconditioning of the airfield at Yonpo (127-32, 39-48) which was begun in July 1949 was undertaken by the North Korean government only because it was specifically requested by the Soviets. The Soviet representatives put up 50,000 won for the work and, in March 1950, had twenty supervisors directing labor at the field.
2. Since the Soviet funds did not cover the entire cost of construction, labor was conscripted at the rate of one man from each household for a period of forty days. Wages paid were eight won daily and free meals. More than a thousand farmers were mobilized during March, although the work cut into one of their busy periods.
3. The civil engineering and construction contracts are handled by Daihong Construction Company of Pyongyang, headed by CHOE (~~CH~~) aged about thirty. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of July 1950, but local public opinion in March was that it would be impossible to finish by that date.
4. About fifteen planes are stationed at the field, of which two or three belong to the North Korean Air Force, the remainder to the Soviets. These are transports which travel to the USSR; among the items they carry, pigs and chickens have been observed.
5. In November 1949, about three hundred members of the North Korean Air Force were stationed at the field and were making regular practice flights. Three large and about five small planes were in use for that purpose.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.	
No Change in Class.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Declassified	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	0 8 JUL 1978
By:	

CLASSIFICATION			CONFIDENTIAL			
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIBUTION			
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